



COUNCILMEMBER DONNA FRYE
COUNCILMEMBER-ELECT CARL DeMAIO

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Press Release

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**DeMaio and Frye Propose Reforms
to Policies and Structure of City Council**

Bipartisan Effort Aimed at Improving Effectiveness and Rebuilding Trust

SAN DIEGO—Councilmember-elect Carl DeMaio joined Councilmember Donna Frye today in unveiling a bipartisan initiative to reform the rules and policies governing the San Diego City Council. The goal is to improve the transparency and effectiveness of the City Council in a Strong Mayor-Strong Council form of government.

“The City Council is long overdue for a serious overhaul,” commented DeMaio. “With the City Council membership changing, we have a unique opportunity to reposition the City Council as a constructive partner in solving the city’s financial problems.”

“It is time to examine—in a truly bipartisan manner—the policies, structure, and operations of the City Council to make it a more effective and open legislative body,” commented Frye.

In a memo outlining their initiative to Mayor Jerry Sanders and the City Council, Frye and DeMaio are committing to co-chair a six month study group to generate findings and recommendations for improving how the Council conducts business, manages legislation, and interacts with the public.

The study group will raise questions and generate recommendations in four key areas:

- **Budget and Legislative Processes:** How can the budget and legislative processes be reformed to position the City Council as an effective legislative partner in solving San Diego’s financial and operational problems?

- **Council Oversight:** How can the City Council fulfill its duty to provide better oversight of taxpayer monies being spent by the city government?
- **Public Participation:** How can the City Council be a more open and transparent body?
- **Presiding Officers, Rules of Order and Committee Structure:** How can internal policies improve the decorum and efficiency of the City Council in its deliberations?

DeMaio and Frye will kick-off the study group by holding a number of “Town Hall Dialogues” across the city to educate and engage the public in the process of reforming the City Council. In addition to soliciting the input of issue experts and the public, Frye and DeMaio plan to hold at least two public hearings this fall to review findings and recommendations. The goal is to provide the incoming City Council with a comprehensive set of reforms to the City Council for consideration after the new Council members are sworn in on December 8, 2008.

DeMaio and Frye concluded: “It is our hope that this process will generate specific reforms that will enhance the effectiveness of the City Council as a legislative body as well as restore public confidence and trust in city government.”

Councilmember Donna Frye is the City Councilmember for the Sixth Council District, which includes the communities of Clairemont, Kearny Mesa, Linda Vista, Mission Bay, Mission Valley and Serra Mesa. She is currently the chair of the City Council’s Natural Resources and Culture committee.

Councilmember-Elect Carl DeMaio was elected on June 3, 2008, with over sixty-six percent of the vote to represent the Fifth Council District, which includes the communities of Carmel Mountain Ranch, Mira Mesa, Rancho Bernardo, Sabre Springs, San Pasqual, Scripps Ranch and Sorrento Mesa. He will be sworn into office on December 8, 2008.

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